

Application/Control Number: 09/867,174

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claims pto.

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1. A method for selecting a fulfillment plan for moving an item within a supply chain, comprising:
- receiving an order for an item;
  - constructing a list of alternative fulfillment plans for moving the item within the supply chain;
  - evaluating the constructed alternative fulfillment plans against a predetermined criteria; and
  - selecting for implementation the constructed alternative fulfillment plan that most closely meets the predetermined criteria, the selected alternative fulfillment plan being used to position the item for use in meeting the order.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using a customer specified level of service when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using branch and bound techniques to determine candidate sourcing points for the item when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using a customer specified point of delivery when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using a customer specified delivery date when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
6. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using various combinations of sourcing points within the supply chain when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using customer specified consolidation requirements when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
8. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using activity costs when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
9. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using inventory age when constructing the list of alternative fulfillment plans.
10. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of using a customer specified price quote when evaluating the constructed alternative fulfillment plans against a predetermined criteria.

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11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media having instructions ~~executable by a~~  
computer for use in selecting a fulfillment plan for moving an item within a supply chain  
~~distributed over a plurality of geographic locations~~, the instructions performing steps comprising:

receiving an order for an item;

in response to receipt of the order for the item constructing a plurality of alternative  
fulfillment plans for moving the item from a sourcing point to ~~one or more~~ each of the plurality  
of geographic locations within the supply chain;

evaluating each of the constructed plurality of alternative fulfillment plans against a  
predetermined criteria; and

selecting for implementation one of the constructed plurality of alternative fulfillment  
plans that most closely meets the predetermined criteria, the selected one of the plurality of  
alternative fulfillment plans being used to position the item at ~~one of the plurality of~~ a geographic  
location within the supply chain thereby making the item available for use in executing the order.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using a customer specified level of service when  
constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using branch and bound techniques to determine  
candidate sourcing points for the item when constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment  
plans.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using a customer specified point of delivery when  
constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using a customer specified delivery date when  
constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using various combinations of sourcing points within the  
supply chain when constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using customer specified consolidation requirements  
when constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
instructions further perform the step of using activity costs when constructing the plurality of  
alternative fulfillment plans.

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19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the instructions further perform the step of using inventory age when constructing the plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable media as recited in claim 11, wherein the instructions further perform the step of using a customer specified price quote when evaluating the constructed plurality of alternative fulfillment plans.

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